

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 4:00PM (JST)

INVITED LECTURE

MASAHISA FUJITA

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Spatial economics and the COVID-19 pandemic

Unlike previous infectious diseases, which tended to be connected to poor environments, the epicentres of the COVID-19 pandemic have been the wealthiest metropolises of industrialised countries. This column argues that the population concentration in large cities has provoked an even more intensive agglomeration of social and economic activities in high-interaction environments, driving urban development but also fostering conditions for the spread of COVID-19. Globalisation further promoted concentration, migration, and inequality, which might hamper the restructuring of the post-pandemic global economy if effective international coordination and a multi-core international regime that values diversity and competition in creative endeavours continue to be threatened. New research topics of spatial economics and COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 session

Session chair: Nobuaki Hamaguchi (Faculty Fellow, RIETI; Professor at RIBE, Kobe University), Zhang Zhuoying (Associate Professor, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Brian H.S. Kim (Professor, Seoul National University), Fu-Chuan Lai (Executive Director, Academia Sinica), Masahisa Fujita, Mitsuru Ota (University of Tsukuba)

Four panelists representing each of the participating countries (China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan) will report on the COVID-19 infection status and the current status of countermeasures in each country.

After that, Professor Fujita and four panelists will discuss on possible new research topics in the academic field of Regional Science-Spatial Economics in the future, associated with the COVID19 phenomenon.

Professor Nobuaki Hamaguchi (Kobe University) will be in charge of the overall moderator.

**2020 Asian
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**2020 ACRS CHAIRMAN
TSUTSUMI MORITO
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